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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria/Rumania

REPORT

SUBJECT Ports of Varna, Burgas and Constanta

DATE DISTR. 14 October 1957

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REQUIREMENT NO.

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1.

the harbors of Constanta, Rumania and Varna and Burgas, Bulgaria.

2.

three new Bulgarian corvettes of about 500-600 tons each outside Varna harbor.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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ATTACHMENT

DATA ON PORTS OF CONSTANTA, VARNA, BURGAS

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A. Navigational Data and ObservationsBeaconing

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[redacted] four small buoys were set up between Mangalia and Cape Tuzla, 3 miles from the coast and parallel to it. At the time of the observation, a self-propelled floating crane was engaged in setting up one of the buoys. The northernmost of the four buoys is equipped with a red beacon. The floating crane was seen re-entering the port of Constanta during the morning of 22 June.

Naval Units Encountered

At about 11:00 hours on 21 June 1957, while the buoys were being set up, a Rumanian naval unit was seen anchored about 6 miles off Mangalia. It had lowered a boat and the personnel in this boat [redacted] were engaged in making depth or other hydrographic soundings.

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[redacted] the unit's silhouette [redacted] of the "DB-2" class.

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B. Port of ConstantaControls

The boarding inspection was extremely superficial and the inspecting party was very courteous. [redacted]

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[redacted] Passes were issued at once for the period from 06:00 to 02:00 hours, with the proviso that the pass-holders could spend

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[redacted]

the night in the city by requesting authorization from the police authorities concerned.

Port Activity

The port is very active and frequented by ships of different nationalities carrying primarily grain, lumber, and cement. Imports come under the general name of "general cargo." There is much Soviet oil tanker traffic.

Naval Units in Port

Destroyers D-2 and D-3, and minesweepers DB-12, DB-13, DB-14, and DB-15 are moored alongside the quay of the outer dike. [redacted]

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[redacted] these units [redacted] remained moored the whole time.

Net Defenses

[redacted] at the harbor [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] a net had been placed at the entrance. [redacted] a

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tugboat, coupled to the upper bolt-rope of the net, was engaged in removing the net from the entrance. There had probably been a test of the net, which on shore was fixed onto the small mole with the green beacon. After the tugboat completed this operation, the net, supported by cylinder-shaped floats, was stretched out parallel to the inner side of the last section of the eastern outer dike.

Ship's Stores

In the past, when a merchant ship planned to take on provisions at Constanta, it had to request them by radio [redacted]

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[redacted] as to avoid a refusal. Since a short time ago, however,

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[redacted]
this prior request is no longer necessary and merchant ships may take
on all the provisions they wish. [redacted]

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[redacted] A former Romtrans employee
has been placed in charge of operations pertaining to acquisition of
ship's stores. [redacted]

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C. Port of Varna

Boarding Inspection

The inspecting party acted with courtesy and did not carry out
a very thorough inspection. [redacted]

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[redacted] Shore passes
were issued without any restriction as to number.

Naval Units in Port

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Three Bulgarian corvettes, estimated to be of 500 to 600 tons,
were observed [redacted] outside the western outer dike, both upon
entering and leaving the harbor. Judging by the streamline shape
of their superstructure and the state of repair of the hulls,
[redacted] new vessels. They are each equipped with
a bell-shaped radar antenna installed on the masthead.

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Port Installations

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[redacted]
[redacted] This quay is completely devoid of hoisting equipment.

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[REDACTED]

D. Port of Burgas

Boarding Inspection

As at Varna, the inspecting party acted courteously and made only a superficial inspection. [REDACTED]

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Contruction Work in Port

The fill-in work in the north-western section of the port has been suspended. A mooring buoy has been placed in the center of the channel leading there.

Naval Units in Port

Two subchasers and two landing craft were moored bow-to along the small quay in the western sector of the harbor.

Port Activity

Light port traffic. During the period of observation, the following units visited the harbor: a Soviet passenger ship, which remained in port only for a few hours and sailed again after discharging a number of Soviet civilians; [REDACTED] two small tankers, one Yugoslav and the other German, unloading fuel at a mooring place across from the head of the western outer dike.

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Area Whose Access is Forbidden to Foreigners

The seaward sector extending from the root of the eastern outer dike to the beach is protected by a cliff. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] access to that area was forbidden to foreigners.

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